

North Hampton State Park Beach ("State Beach"), Atlantic Ocean

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

BP-213



Beach location: North Hampton

Number of NHDES sampling stations: 3

NHDES sampling frequency: 28 times this summer

Year sampling began: 2003

What does the NHDES Beach Program do?

The New Hampshire Beach Inspection Program monitors water for fecal bacteria at public beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day. When elevated levels of fecal indicator bacteria are identified, an advisory is issued to inform and protect the public from possible illness while swimming. Once an advisory is issued, beaches are resampled until bacteria levels are acceptable.

2021 Sampling Results

Fair 85.7% of Samples Clean
Total samples taken: 84 Total unclean samples: 12 Advisories issued: 5 Average length of advisories: 3.4 days

Key

Very Good ≥98% of samples clean
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Good 90-97% of samples clean

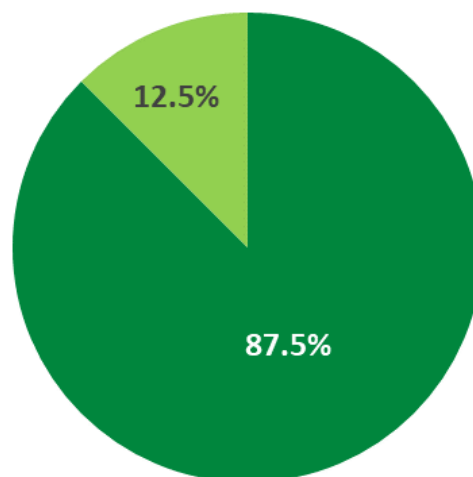
Fair 70-89% of samples clean

Poor <70% of samples clean

2003-2021 Sampling Results

Good 92.9% of Samples Clean
Total samples taken: 1,499 Total unclean samples: 106 Advisories issued: 29 Average length of advisories: 2.97 days

2021 New Hampshire Coastal-Marine Beaches

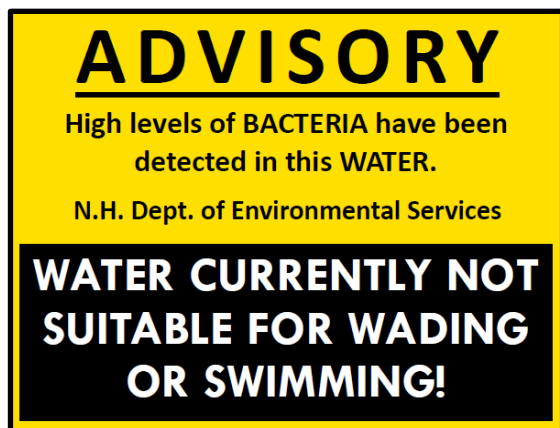


How Clean Are New Hampshire Beaches?

NH beaches are categorized as "Very Good", "Good", "Fair" or "Poor" to describe the percentage of clean samples over time. Of the beaches sampled in 2020 by the NHDES Beach Program, 87.5% of coastal beaches were "Very Good" and 12.5% of coastal beaches were considered "Good".

What triggers a beach advisory?

Three to five water samples are collected at each visit. If a sample comes back with fecal bacteria levels above the state standard of 104 counts/100mL (for Enterococci bacteria), a **Beach Advisory** is issued. Advisories DO NOT close a beach. When an advisory is issued, the water is tested again until a clean result is returned.



-ADVISORY- signs are displayed at beach entry points when bacteria advisories are issued. Advisories and results are posted online.

What can I do?

It is important for you to know when bacteria levels may be elevated, such as following a rain event. Fecal contamination can come from many sources, including swimmers, wildlife, nearby septic systems, storm drains and farm runoff. To help protect your health and that of your beach, discourage the feeding of wildlife, such as seagulls and geese.



Stay Connected with the Beach Program

Current advisories are posted at:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/advisories>

Beach data can be viewed through the
One Stop Database:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/onestop-navigation>

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Questions about beaches and sampling can be directed to:

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